

A TEXTBOOK OF X-RAY DIAGNOSIS. Vol. IV. By British Authors in Four Volumes, Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., Director, X-Ray Diagnostic Department, University College Hospital, London, and Peter Kerley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E., Director, X-Ray Department, Westminster Hospital; Radiologist, Royal Chest Hospital, London; 533 Illustrations; W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$15.00. (Vols. I and II to be published later.)

This volume is devoted entirely to disorders of bones and joints.

Most of the chapters are similar to those of the first edition, with minor revisions. However, there has been complete revision of the chapter on traumatic lesions of bones and joints, and the chapter on tumors and cysts. There are 150 more pages than in the previous edition and 230 more illustrations, 130 of these being in the chapter on traumatic lesions.

The total number of authors is 17, there being three additions to the previous group, and one deletion (one of the senior editors, Dr. Twining, having died).

The volume deals with normal bones and joints, general pathology of bone, congenital deformities, traumatic lesions, inflammatory diseases, static and paralytic lesions, constitutional diseases, and tumors and cysts of bone. There is a section on intervertebral disc lesions, on lesions of soft tissues and on localization of foreign bodies.

The viewpoint expressed is that of British radiology, notably of men in the London and Manchester areas. The text is clear. Most of the illustrations are good, but unfortunately are in negative instead of positive form.

Some readers will regard the format as "new and gay compared to a rather gloomy wartime format" of the previous edition. This particular reviewer admits a preference for the former style.

The bibliography has been enlarged. The work can be recommended for use by orthopedists, radiologists, and the shelves of most medical libraries.

* * *

PSYCHIATRIC SECTIONS IN GENERAL HOSPITALS—An Architectural Record Book. By Paul Haun, M.D., M.Sc.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Georgetown University Medical School. F. W. Dodge Corporation. Published by Architectural Record, 119 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y., 1950. \$4.00.

In these days when large numbers of new general hospitals are being planned or being built, it is unforgivable not to consider the incorporation of psychiatric units into such construction. Communities that are acutely aware of the need for hospital facilities for medical and surgical beds frequently ignore an equally pressing need for psychiatric beds unless individuals in these communities have been presented with such problems when close members of their families develop mental illness. There is no need to re-emphasize the importance of and pressing necessity for more psychiatric beds when it is known that over 51 per cent of beneficiaries in the Veterans Administration are receiving hospital treatment for mental illness. If psychiatric hospital facilities were available in general hospitals of smaller communities, more psychiatrists would be attracted to such areas. Such psychiatric units would emphasize the treatment of illness of short duration and good prognosis, and leave to larger psychiatric hospitals continued treatment problems. An additional advantage to the medical staff would be an increasing cooperation and integration of medical discipline, and would bring psychiatrists, internists, and surgeons into closer liaison with one another.

The author presents excellent arguments for a truly "general hospital" which contains a psychiatric unit in satisfying community needs, improved patient care, improvement of patient morale, opportunities for research, and economy of operation. He follows a patient from the moment

of his admission, through the period of interview and examination, diagnosis and treatment, to his discharge, and he analyzes in detail the facilities necessary for the patient's care both from the administrative and professional standpoint. Eight different plans for psychiatric floors in general hospitals are presented, rated variously from excellent to unsatisfactory, and analyzed as to desirable and undesirable aspects. To these Butler and Erdman, hospital architects, have added a chapter on their ideas of an ideal psychiatric service of 24 beds on the sixth floor of a general hospital.

This little volume is an excellent and practical one; it is organized and presented in such a way as to indicate specific ways and means of integrating a psychiatric unit into a general hospital.

* * *

HAIRFREE—The Story of Electrolysis. By Samuel Simon, 1370 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, Florida, 1948.

This 100-page booklet is valuable information mainly for patients who suffer from the problem of superfluous hair and also for prospective students of electrolysis. It is too elementary for general physicians, dermatologists or experienced electrolytologists.

* * *

CORONARY CIRCULATION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By Donald E. Gregg, M.S., Ph.D., M.D., Chief Research Physician, Medical Department, Field Research Laboratory, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$4.50.

It is most encouraging to find in a book of this sort the simple, straightforward attack on the stated problem, as presented by the author. In spite of his years of experience in the field of coronary circulation he has not lost sight of the one problem which is undoubtedly the cause of much of the divergence of opinion among investigators in cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Gregg devotes a great deal of time in impressing upon the reader the progress made in the study of the "intact" heart. Many comparisons are made of the various types of investigations carried on. He clearly shows the difference in results obtained by working on the open-chest dog and the closed-chest, anesthetized dog. It is here that the reader sees the shortcomings of such work and the author attempts to evaluate it, always keeping in mind the experimental handicaps.

The treatment of manometers used in recording pulsatile cardiac pressures is a very difficult task and is handled very adeptly. By a straightforward evaluation of the problem of recording pressure pulses, the pros and cons of various types of recording manometers can be seen. In this manner the reader can practically determine for himself which type of manometer is best suited for his problem. Certainly more than a superficial knowledge of these instruments is evident from the thorough treatment given them. Similarly, his presentation of the pressure curves obtained in his experiments shows a great deal of experience and is the product of a great deal of thought and analysis of the various curves. Although no final judgment is passed, the controversies over the "normal" pressure curves are developed in detail. These are accompanied by the basic hydrodynamic considerations of the pressure pulse and supply the reader with sufficient information to evaluate these curves for himself.

Complete, accurate and basic descriptions are given of the various tools available for the study of coronary flow. Their complete development is given and perhaps the only thing lacking in each instance is a critical analysis of these various instruments. After the many years of experience with these problems that Dr. Gregg has had, it doesn't seem out of order to ask for his personal observations and criticisms on points that even today are causing so much controversy. However, the very thorough manner in which Dr. Gregg handles each one of these problems enables the reader,